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# Security Council

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## Letter dated 17 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the People's Republic of China in February 2004 (see annex). This assessment has been prepared under my own responsibility following consultations with other members of the Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Guangya
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## Annex to the letter dated 17 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

## Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China (February 2004)

### Introduction

Under the presidency of the People's Republic of China in February 2004, the Security Council addressed a wide range of issues on its agenda, including Côte d'Ivoire, Kosovo, Cyprus, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the mission to Central Africa, the Middle East/Palestine, Timor-Leste, Somalia, Georgia and Haiti. Thanks to the cooperation of the Council members and support of the Secretariat, the work of the Council in February proceeded in a smooth and orderly manner, with due priority given to some prominent issues without neglecting other questions on the Council's agenda.

In total, during the month of February, the Security Council held 11 official meetings and conducted informal consultations on 9 occasions. It adopted three resolutions and two presidential statements. The President also made three statements to the press on behalf of the Council.

Through its web site (www.china-un.org), the presidency published in a regular and timely fashion the programme of work of the Council as well as activities carried out by the Council in February.

## Africa

### Mission to Central Africa

On 17 February, the Council held a public meeting on the progress report of the Secretary-General on the recommendations of the Security Council mission to Central Africa (S/2004/52). The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomoh, introduced the progress report and briefed the Council on the latest developments in the region. Council members acknowledged the important contributions that the Security Council mission had made to the peace processes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi and welcomed the positive developments in both countries. They expressed the hope that those developments would help to create conditions for the convocation of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

### Côte d'Ivoire

On 4 February, the Council held consultations on Côte d'Ivoire. Following the consultations, the Council adopted resolution 1527 (2004), by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI) until 27 February 2004. After a series of consultations, the Council unanimously adopted, on 27 February, resolution 1528 (2004), by which it decided to establish the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) as from 4 April 2004. The Council also decided to renew the mandate of MINUCI and the authorization of ECOWAS

forces until 4 April 2004, and requested the Secretary-General to transfer authority from MINUCI and the ECOWAS forces to UNOCI on that date. The Secretary-General welcomed the adoption of the resolution, saying that a strengthened United Nations presence would be conducive to the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire as well as the stability of the entire West African subregion.

### Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 11 February, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, William Lacy Swing. Council members expressed their satisfaction at the recent positive developments in the peace and national reconciliation process, while emphasizing that much work needed to be done during the period leading up to national elections scheduled to be held in 2005. They called upon the international community to assist the Government of National Unity and Transition in its efforts to implement the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement on the Transition. After the meeting, the President of the Council made a statement to the press (see appendix).

### Somalia

On 25 February, the Council held consultations on Somalia, at which the Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Winston Tubman, briefed Council members on the report of the Secretary-General dated 12 February 2004 (S/2004/115) as well as developments after the reporting period covered in the Secretary-General's report. Members of the Council reiterated their firm support for the Somali national reconciliation process launched under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. They welcomed the signing of the Declaration on the Harmonization of Various Issues Proposed by the Somali Delegates at the Somali Consultative Meetings on 29 January 2004 as an important step towards lasting peace and reconciliation in Somalia, and called upon the Somali parties to build on the progress achieved thus far. They condemned those obstructing the Somali peace process. They also expressed their serious concern about the humanitarian situation in Somalia. At the conclusion of the consultations, the Council adopted a presidential statement on Somalia (S/PRST/2004/3).

## Asia

### Iraq

On 9 February, the Secretary-General briefed the Council during its consultations on his decision to send a United Nations fact-finding mission to Iraq led by Lakhdar Brahimi. Council members voiced their full support for the Secretary-General's decision and expressed their belief that the mission would be conducive to the political process in Iraq.

On 24 February, the Council heard briefings by the Permanent Representatives of the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in accordance with paragraph 24 of Security Council resolution 1483 (2003). The Permanent Representative of the United States focused his briefing on the political developments in Iraq as well as issues related to security, disarmament and the oil-for-food programme. The Permanent Representative of the

United Kingdom focused his briefing on the provision of basic services in Iraq and issues related to economic reconstruction, human rights and justice in that country.

As the report of the fact-finding mission was made available to Council members before the meeting, they welcomed the report during the briefing and expressed appreciation for the efforts made by Mr. Brahimi and his team. They also stressed the need to adhere to the date of 30 June for transferring sovereignty to Iraq, and voiced support for an expanded United Nations role in the political process in Iraq.

**Timor-Leste**

On 20 February, the Council held a public meeting on Timor-Leste. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, introduced the special report of the Secretary-General (S/2004/117). The Under-Secretary-General listed the remarkable progress in Timor-Leste since the establishment of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET). He also pointed out that, as the conclusion of the mandate of UNMISET approached, the goal of true self-sufficiency on the part of Timor-Leste had not yet been achieved. The Secretariat had concluded that the continued presence of a peacekeeping operation for an additional one-year "consolidation phase" was essential to reinforce and strengthen what had been achieved to date. José Ramos-Horta, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, attended the meeting and called for the continuation of a peacekeeping component in the proposed new United Nations mission in Timor-Leste. Council members reiterated their support for Timor-Leste in its nation-building endeavour and concurred with the Secretary-General's proposal to extend the mandate of UNMISET for an additional year. A number of countries, including some ASEAN members and the representative of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries also made statements at the meeting.

**Middle East**

On 18 February, the Council held its monthly open briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Terje Roed-Larsen, briefed the Council, stating that the window of opportunity for resuming the peace process — based primarily on the stated willingness of both sides to talk to each other — remained open. He hoped that a first meeting between the two Prime Ministers would be held at the earliest possible date. He said that Mr. Sharon's plan of unilateral withdrawal could not take place in a vacuum, and without cooperation from the Palestinian Authority and the assistance of the international community an orderly withdrawal was unlikely. He appealed to the parties to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the possible resumption of the peace process based on the withdrawal initiative, and the Quartet to re-engage with the parties and revitalize its efforts. In the informal consultations following the briefing, members of the Council agreed in general with the assessment of the situation by the Special Coordinator.

## Europe

### Cyprus

On 9 February, during informal consultations, the Secretary-General briefed the Council on the Cyprus question. He informed the Council that, after careful consideration and encouraging contacts he had had on the Cyprus question during and following his recent trip to Europe, he had decided to invite the leaders of the two parties to the Cyprus problem, together with the representatives of Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom, to New York to have a meeting on 10 February. His expectation was that, following the meeting, the parties would return to the island to continue negotiations on the basis of the revised plan that he had put forward on 26 February 2003. The Secretary-General emphasized that it was in the interests of all concerned to resolve the question before 1 May 2004 and that, with good will and determination on all sides, as well as strong support from the international community, that objective could be achieved. Members of the Council expressed their welcome and support to the Secretary-General's initiative.

### Georgia

On 26 February, the Council held an open meeting at the request of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations, at which the President of Georgia, Mikhail Saakashvili, briefed the Council on recent developments in the country as well as his vision regarding the peace process in Abkhazia, Georgia.

### Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro

On 6 February, the Council held a public meeting on Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Harri Holkeri, introduced the Secretary-General's report (S/2004/71) on the implementation of resolution 1244 (1999) and the activities of UNMIK, with a specific emphasis on the implementation by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of the eight standards prescribed in the "standards before status" policy. He told the Council that he would soon submit an implementation work plan, which would set out clearly the actions necessary to reach the standards. Council members reaffirmed their support for a multi-ethnic inclusive community in Kosovo based on resolution 1244 (1999) and the "standards before status" policy. They also expressed their support for the review process launched by the Special Representative.

The Assistant Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Montenegro, and the Permanent Representatives of Albania and Ireland, the latter on behalf of the European Union, made statements at the meeting.

## Haiti

In February, the Council met on six occasions in both informal consultations and official meetings to discuss the situation in Haiti.

On 18 February, the President made a statement to the press on behalf of the Council (see appendix), expressing deep concern about the increasing violence and deteriorating political and humanitarian situation in Haiti. He condemned acts of

violence and called upon all those who perpetrated them to immediately stop such acts. The Government and the opposition were asked to conduct dialogue and overcome their differences peacefully and democratically through constitutional means.

On 25 February, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, on the latest developments in the situation in Haiti. The President made another statement to the press after the briefing (ibid.). He deplored the decision by the opposition in Haiti to reject the Plan of Action of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and stressed that the implementation of the plan offered the best opportunity to resolve the problems in Haiti.

At the request of the Government of Jamaica on behalf of CARICOM, the Council held a public meeting on 26 February. K. D. Knight, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, and Frederick A. Mitchell, Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Public Service of the Bahamas, as well as representatives of other Member States, spoke at the meeting. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Jamaica expressed the hope that the Security Council would soon authorize the deployment of a peacekeeping operation to Haiti to help to stabilize the situation and restore law and order. At the end of the meeting the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2004/4) commending and supporting OAS and CARICOM for their lead role in promoting a peaceful solution and for seeking to re-establish confidence among the parties, in particular through their Plan of Action. The Council stated that it would consider urgently options for international engagement, including that of an international force in support of a political settlement in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

On 29 February, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1529 (2004), by which it authorized the deployment to Haiti of a Multinational Interim Force for a period of not more than three months. It expressed its readiness to establish a follow-on United Nations stabilization force, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council recommendations concerning the size, structure and mandates of such a force preferably within 30 days. It also welcomed the Secretary-General's appointment of a Special Adviser for Haiti, and requested the Secretary-General to elaborate a programme of action for the United Nations to assist the constitutional process and support humanitarian and economic assistance.

# Appendix

## Statements to the press made by the President of the Security Council in February 2004

### Democratic Republic of the Congo (11 February)

Members of the Security Council heard this morning a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They were encouraged by the recent positive developments in the peace and national reconciliation process. They reiterated their full support to the Government of National Unity and Transition and to the efforts of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC).

Members of the Council shared the concern expressed by the International Committee in Support of the Transition with regard to the work needed to be done leading up to national elections scheduled to be held in 2005. They stressed the need for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of Congolese combatants to be implemented and the need for a national coordinator to ensure a unified approach by the Government of National Unity and Transition and the urgency for significant laws to be passed. They also stressed the need for the extension of State authority, security sector reform, strengthening the rule of law and economic reconstruction, an end to the illegal exploitation of natural resources and to impunity.

Members of the Council called upon the international community to assist the Government of National Unity and Transition in its endeavour. They took note in this regard of the progress evinced and the necessary actions agreed at the meeting on 9 February 2004 on security sector reform, which can serve as a solid basis for integrating and restructuring the military and the police.

### Haiti (18 February)

Members of the Security Council expressed their deep concern over the increasing violence and political crisis in Haiti leading to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation, including the loss of many lives.

Council members strongly condemned these acts of violence and called upon all those who perpetrate them to put an end to such actions. They also expressed their deep concern at the massive violations of human rights occurring in Haiti.

Members of the Council called upon the Government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the opposition sectors to restore confidence and dialogue, and overcome their differences peacefully and democratically through constitutional means.

Council members commended the work undertaken by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and urged all concerned to collaborate with it.

Members of the Security Council expressed their strong support for the initiatives of the relevant regional organizations, the Caribbean Community and the Organization of American States, to bring an end to the crisis.

**Haiti (25 February)**

The members of the Security Council condemn the continued violence and political crisis in Haiti that has led to the loss of lives, the deterioration of the humanitarian situation, and the abuse of human rights.

The members of the Council deplore the decision by the opposition to reject the Plan of Action of the Caribbean Community and the Organization of American States, and call upon the Government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the opposition to accept and implement the provisions of that plan and of pertinent OAS resolutions. Implementation of the plan offers the best opportunity to restore confidence and dialogue and for Haitians to resolve differences peacefully, democratically and constitutionally.

The members of the Council urge the international community to respond to the serious humanitarian situation in Haiti. They call upon all sides in Haiti's conflict to facilitate the distribution of food and medicine, to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches those who need it and to respect United Nations personnel and facilities involved in these activities.

The members of the Council call upon both the Government and the armed rebels to respect human rights and to cease the use of violence to advance political goals. Those responsible for human rights violations should be held accountable.

The members of the Security Council will continue to monitor closely the situation in Haiti.